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 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LA ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, et  
 al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, et al,

Defendants.

No. 2:20-cv-02291 DOC-KES

Hon. David O. Carter

**DEFENDANT COUNTY OF LOS  
 ANGELES APRIL 10, 2020 STATUS  
 REPORT**

On April 7, 2020, Defendant County of Los Angeles (“County”) joined the Court on a two-hour walking tour of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. The County shares the Court’s concern over meeting and maintaining basic hygiene standards for persons experiencing homelessness on

1 Skid Row, particularly given the health risks posed by COVID-19. The County understands that  
2 the City is working diligently to improve the situation on Skid Row. For its part, while the City  
3 maintains jurisdiction over sanitation on Skid Row, the County also is taking immediate steps to  
4 assist the City to improve hygiene in areas of need. This status report summarizes those efforts.

5 **I. OPENING OF COUNTY-CONTROLLED WASHROOMS**

6 When the Court first identified concerns with hygiene stations on Skid Row, the County  
7 undertook a survey of the County-owned properties in the vicinity of Skid Row with washrooms  
8 (i.e., rooms with sinks and toilets) that could be opened to the public. On April 7, 2020, the County  
9 represented to the Court that two potential County-owned properties might be available for public  
10 use by the following week. As of this filing, the County exceeded its goal by identifying three (not  
11 two) locations available for public use on Skid Row. These locations include: (1) a Department of  
12 Mental Health (“DMH”) building located at 224 East 6th Street, (2) a facility located at 512 South  
13 San Pedro Street subleased by the County to a Skid Row health clinic, and (3) the Department of  
14 Public Social Services (“DPSS”) Civic Center district office building located at 813 East 4th Place.

15 First, on Thursday, April 8, 2020, the County opened a washroom facility at 224 East 6th  
16 Street. Attorneys for the County identified this property for the Court during its walking tour of  
17 Skid Row. A single restroom in this facility, with one toilet and one sink, is currently open to the  
18 public seven days a week for extended hours from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Daily on-site security  
19 and janitorial staff will be provided. The County has posted informal signage to alert residents of  
20 availability with plans to improve signage.

21 Second, also on Thursday, April 8, 2020, working with the Center for Community Health  
22 Downtown, a health clinic subleasing property from the County, the County identified two toilets  
23 and two sinks at 512 South San Pedro Street open to the public. Persons experiencing homelessness  
24 can use the facilities regardless of whether they are patients of the clinic. If a person asks to use the  
25 facilities, the only conditions for use are (i) the clinic will ask to take the temperature of that person  
26 and (ii) the person has to pass through security screening just like a patient would. This facility  
27 will be open during the business hours of the clinic, which are approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:00  
28 p.m., Monday through Friday. On-site security as well as janitorial staff will be provided by the

1 Center for Community Health Downtown. The clinic operator also has provided a handwashing  
2 facility outside of the building for use by people experiencing homelessness.

3 Third, on Friday evening, April 10, 2020 or soon thereafter, the County plans to open a  
4 washroom facility at a DPSS building located at 813 East 4th Place. Work to bring this facility  
5 online is in progress. However, as of this filing, the County expects the facility will be available  
6 seven days a week for extended hours from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. On-site security will be  
7 provided during its hours of operation, and janitorial staff will service the facility.

8 The County appreciates the Court's view that more needs to be done. The County will  
9 continue to identify if any additional County-owned facilities are available on and around Skid Row  
10 to help the City meet adequate sanitation and hygiene standards for persons experiencing  
11 homelessness on Skid Row. The County is also working to address the needs of persons  
12 experiencing homelessness throughout the region, especially in smaller cities and parts of the  
13 unincorporated County who, unlike the City, have not received State emergency homelessness  
14 funding to respond to COVID-19.<sup>1</sup>

## 15 **II. ADDITIONAL AND ONGOING EFFORTS IN SKID ROW**

16 The County is also exploring the possibility of private parties with properties on Skid Row  
17 voluntarily opening their restrooms to the public. Thus far, the County has reached out to the Skid  
18 Row Housing Trust asking for their help to alleviate the hygiene needs of the Skid Row community.  
19 The County has not yet received a response.

20 The County also recognizes that the Court has a unique platform to make informal requests  
21 to private parties to open and staff their restrooms if they have not already done so. In the event  
22 that the County believes Court intervention will be useful, the County plans to solicit the support

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23 <sup>1</sup> As explained in the County's Status Report dated April 1, 2020 [*see* Dkt. 42], the County has  
24 deployed 100 sanitation stations outside of the City. Since the City has jurisdictional control and  
25 responsibility for Skid Row as well as state-allotted funding that can be used for hygiene, the City  
26 is the lead in procuring hygiene facilities within Skid Row. In turn, the County is working to assist  
27 smaller cities and the unincorporated County to meet the hygiene needs among persons  
28 experiencing homelessness. As recently as April 4, 2020, the County made \$400,000 available for  
cities in need of funds to address hygiene needs. Los Angeles and Long Beach have received their  
own direct allocations of homeless emergency funding from the State, which can be used for these  
purposes.

1 of the Court to encourage private parties with properties in the region to make their sanitation  
2 facilities available on a limited basis.

3 Finally, the County is in regular communication with the City to support its efforts on Skid  
4 Row. For example, on April 8, 2020, in partnership with Skid Row outreach teams, the County  
5 developed a list of fifteen (15) potential sites that are highly trafficked and suitable for hygiene  
6 stations. The County shared this list with the City to assist the City's ongoing efforts to improve  
7 the sanitation conditions in Skid Row quickly and efficiently.

8  
9 Dated: April 10, 2020

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15 Dated: April 10, 2020

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